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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /118 W
---------- 103922
R 121934Z JUL 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6728
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4227
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
CINCLANT
USLOSACLANT

S E C R E T USNATO 3873

E.O. 11652: GDS-12-31-82
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, OPS, SP
SUBJ: SOUNDINGS ON SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN A PROPOSED
NAVOCFORMED EXERCISE

1. MISSION OFFICER MET WITH CANADIAN AND BELGIAN DEFENSE ADVISORS JULY 12 TO CONTINUE INFORMAL SOUNDINGS WITH NATO DELEGATIONS ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A SPANISH SHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN A NAVOCFORMED EXERCISE.

2. COL SHEFFIELD (CANADA) COULD NOT PREDICT WHETHER OTTAWA WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT OPENLY THE PROPOSAL, BUT HE DID NOT THINK THAT OTTAWA WOULD OPPOSE IT.

3. COL MINET (BELGIUM) AGREED WITH THE MILITARY UTILITY OF THE
SECRET

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PROPOSAL. HE SAID THERE WAS WIDE-SPREAD SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE BELGIAN MILITARY FOR CLOSER COOPERATION WITH SPAIN AND THAT SUCH COOPERATION WAS TAKING PLACE BILATERALLY. HOWEVER, WHENEVER MULTILATERAL COOPERATION WAS PROPOSED, THE MATTER CAME TO THE

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ATTENTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE. BECAUSE OF KNOWN POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES, HE FELT SURE THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL OPENLY BUT MIGHT AGREE NOT TO OPPOSE IT IF IT WERE MADE CLEAR THAT THE SPANISH SHIP WAS NOT OPERATING UNDER NATO COMMAND BUT SIMPLY "IN LIAISON WITH "NAVOCFORMED. MINET SAID HE WOULD SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS PERMREP.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, MINET CALLED MISSION OFFICER TO TELL HIM THAT PERMREP DE STAERCKE HAD DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL WITH THE BELGIAN FOREIGN OFFICE. THE RESULTING BELGIAN POSITION IS TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL AS INOPPORTUNE AND PREMATURE. ACCORDING TO MINET, BELGIAN OPPOSITION IS PREDICATED ON THE FOLLOWING ARGUMENTS: A. CLOSER MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN NATO AND SPAIN IS RECOGNIZED AS NECESSARY. B. HOWEVER, THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN NATO AND SPAIN IS GOOD. C. TO RAISE THE PROPOSAL FORMALLY AT THIS TIME WOULD BE DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT WOULD RESULT IN DISAGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD DAMAGE THE CURRENT GOOD ATMOSPHERE. D. ACCORDINGLY, BELGIUM WILL OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL IF RAISED IN THE DPC AT THIS TIME AND, ACCORDING TO MINET, BELGIUM WILL NOT BE ALONE IN OPPOSING IT.

5. DENMARK'S ACTING DEFENSE ADVISOR CALLED MISSION OFFICER JULY 12 TO INFORM HIM THAT POSITION EXPRESSED JULY 11 BY DANISH DCM TO MISSION'S POLAD (PARA 4, USNATO 3856) WAS AN INSTRUCTED REACTION FROM COPENHAGEN AND THAT COPENHAGEN HAD COORDINATED ITS REACTION WITH OSLO.

6. MISSION DOES NOT PLAN TO APPROACH DELEGATIONS OF ICELAND, LUXEMBOURG, OR PORTUGAL, NOR PROVIDE THOSE DELEGATIONS WITH A COPY OF THE MILITARY RATIONALE FOR NATO-SPAIN COOPERATION. OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE NOW GIVEN INFORMAL REACTIONS, BUT MOST WISHED TO CHECK FURTHER WITH CAPITALS, AND THEY EXPECT TO GIVE US ADDITIONAL COMMENTS IN COMING DAYS.

7. AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED THESE SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS, MISSION

WILL SUBMIT ASSESSMENT OF SOUNDINGS FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
MADRID
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
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CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
CINCLANT
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